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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Mai Lan: "Autopilote" "Pumper" | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/mai_lan_autopilote_pumper

All Words

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

temp

n. (a short form of "temporary worker" or "temporary employee") someone who works in a job for a limited time period, often without job stability or security;

synonym: temporary worker, substitute, stand-in

(1) **temp** worker, (2) **temp** agency

I need to find a **temp** job while I search for a permanent position.

croissant

n. a crescent-shaped pastry made of laminated dough and often filled with cheese, chocolate, or other ingredients; a popular breakfast pastry in France and other countries

synonym: crescent roll, pastry, Danish pastry

(1) butter **croissant**, (2) delicious **croissant**

I had a cup of coffee and a **croissant** for breakfast this morning.

noir

adj. a type of film or literature that emphasizes crime, darkness, and moral ambiguity, often using shadowy, low-light cinematography or atmospheric prose; meaning "black" or "dark" in French

synonym: dark, shadowy, black

(1) **noir** crime novel, (2) **noir** atmosphere

The film **noir** genre is known for its dark and brooding atmosphere.

viola

n. a stringed instrument of the violin family, slightly larger than a violin and tuned a fifth lower

synonym: alto violin, viola da gamba, viola d'amore

(1) **viola** section, (2) pick up a **viola**

She had been playing the **viola** for over a decade.

jamais-vu

n. (of psychology, the opposite of "deja-vu") any familiar situation which is not recognized by the observer, which is the feeling of having already experienced a current situation, even when you know you haven't

synonym: never, nevermore, not ever

(1) a moment of **jamais-vu**, (2) episodes of **jamais-vu**

I walked into my old high school, but instead of a wave of nostalgia, I experienced a strange sense of **jamais-vu**.

motto

n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal

synonym: slogan, catchphrase, phrase

(1) the **motto** for safe traffic, (2) company **motto**

The company's **motto** is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.

resonant

adj. tending to reinforce or prolong sound by sympathetic vibration; having a quality that elicits a similar response or feeling

synonym: echoing, reverberating, resonating

(1) **resonant** with the sound, (2) **resonant** cavity

The **resonant** frequency of the guitar string was measured with a tuner.

mien

n. a person's manner or demeanor, especially in terms of their appearance or facial expression; the overall impression a person gives off

synonym: demeanor, appearance, bearing

(1) **mien** of authority, (2) somber **mien**

His confident **mien** suggested that he was in charge of the situation.

humming

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

synonym : buzzing, droning, vibrating

(1) **humming** sound, (2) **humming** bird

The **humming** of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

autopilot

n. a system that automatically controls the operation of an aircraft or spacecraft

synonym : self-pilot, self-driving, self-navigating

(1) **autopilot** function, (2) aircraft **autopilot**

The airplane was on **autopilot** during the long flight.

brothel

n. a place where people, particularly women, engage in sexual activity for payment; a house of prostitution

synonym : bagnio, bordello, whorehouse

(1) illegal **brothel**, (2) underground **brothel**

The police raided the **brothel** in the red-light district and arrested all the prostitutes and customers.

serum

n. the thin yellowish liquid that is a component of blood from which the clotting proteins have been removed, usually used to protect people or animals from disease, poison, etc.

(1) a **serum** injection, (2) examine **serum**

Serum therapy often involves injecting detoxified toxins to acquire antibodies.

lucid

adj. expressed or presented clearly; easy to understand; rational and sane; shining or bright

synonym : clear, transparent, understandable

(1) **lucid** writing, (2) **lucid** explanation

His argument was so **lucid** that even his opponents agreed with him.

regret

v. to feel sad, repentant, or disappointed over something you have done or something you have not been able to

do

synonym : apologize, deplore, lament

(1) **regret** a decision, (2) **regret** being so careless
I **regret** to say that you did not gain admission to the university.

euro

n. the official currency of most European Union countries

(1) the value of the **Euro**, (2) **Euro** crises

Some countries may leave the **Euro**.

vapor

n. a mass of tiny liquid drops in the air

synonym : condensation, dew, fog

(1) alcohol **vapor**, (2) water **vapor** in the atmosphere

Clouds form when water **vapor** rises to the upper atmosphere.

mood

n. the way you feel at a particular time; an angry or impatient state of mind

synonym : mindset, disposition, temper

(1) the **mood** in a room, (2) in an ugly **mood**

His gaffe spoiled the **mood** of the dinner party.

vessel

n. a ship or large boat

synonym : boat, ship, craft

(1) blood **vessels**, (2) naval **vessels**

The **vessel** arrived in port the following day.

pilot

n. a person who flies an aircraft, especially as a job; a person qualified to guide ships through a difficult area of water

synonym : aviator, flyer, chief

(1) a test **pilot**, (2) **pilot** production

The **pilot** exercised great care in landing.

bet

v. to risk money on the result of an event or a competition, such as a race or game, to get more money; to have

faith or confidence in something

synonym : stake, wager, gamble

(1) **bet** on a race, (2) **bet** my future

I **bet** that you know it.

belly

n. the front part of the body below the chest, containing the stomach and bowels; the rounded or curved part of an object, such as a ship or aircraft

synonym : stomach, abdomen, gut

(1) the **belly** of the ship, (2) with an empty **belly**

She had a tattoo just above her **belly** button.

rhythm

n. a strong regular repeated pattern of sounds, words, or musical notes that are used in music, poetry, and dancing

synonym : beat, cadence, tempo

(1) in samba **rhythm**, (2) irregular heart **rhythm**

He beat out a jazz **rhythm** on the cajones.

pump

v. to cause water, air, gas, etc. to move from one place to another by using mechanical equipment; to get or supply something such as money, information, etc. in significant quantities

synonym : drain, inject, send

(1) **pump** a secret out of success, (2) **pump** blood throughout the body

He was alert and could not **pump** any critical information out of him.

dizzy

adj. having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance

synonym : addled, confounded, unsteady

(1) feel **dizzy**, (2) had a **dizzy** spell

Professional skaters can spin fast on the ice without getting **dizzy**.

sweat

n. the salty liquid that is produced by the glands in the skin, especially when the body is hot or under stress

synonym : perspiration, steam, hardwork

(1) all in a **sweat**, (2) **sweat** bath

She wiped the **sweat** off her forehead with a towel.

wax

n. a substance that is solid at room temperature but becomes softer and more pliable when heated, often used in the production of candles, polishes, and cosmetics; (verb) to become large

(1) **wax** finish, (2) **wax** and wane

He sealed the letter with a **wax** seal.

melt

v. to turn from something solid into something soft or liquid as a result of heating

synonym : disintegrate, soften, disappear

(1) **melt** the ice, (2) **melt** down gold

Her resistance **melted** under his persuasion.

crack

v. to break or cause to break without dividing into separate parts; (noun) a line on the surface of something along which it has separated without breaking

synonym : snap, burst, break

(1) **crack** an eggshell, (2) a **crack** in a board

He that would eat the kernel must **crack** the nut.

stick

v. to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material

synonym : pierce, adhere, stay

(1) **stick** a key in a lock, (2) fire **stick**

You **stick** a bill in the change machine, and the coins pop out.

weld

v. to join two or more pieces of metal together by heating their edges until they melt and fuse

synonym :

fuse, join, bond

(1) **weld** a team of such people, (2) **weld** two broken pipes
He learned how to **weld** metal in his high school shop class.

beg

v. to ask for something urgently or earnestly; to appeal to someone to do something

synonym: plead, implore, entreat

(1) **beg** the question, (2) **beg** for help

She **begged** her parents to let her go to the concert.

underwear

n. clothes worn next to the skin under outer clothes

synonym: undergarments, lingerie, innerwear

(1) **underwear** clothing, (2) men's **underwear**

I want to buy new winter **underwear** because mine have holes in them.

wan

adj. looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy

synonym: pale, pallid, ashen

(1) **wan** light, (2) a **wan** smile

His **wan** complexion showed that he was feeling very ill.

firefighter

n. a person whose job is to extinguish fires

(1) forest **firefighter**, (2) decided to be a **firefighter**

The **firefighter** broke into the house bravely to rescue the children.

pray

v. to make a request or petition to a higher power, especially in the form of a respectful or humble request

synonym: implore, supplicate, entreat

(1) **pray** devoutly, (2) **pray** for rain

She closed her eyes and **prayed** for strength to overcome difficult times.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|---|
| 1. w__d a team of such people | v. | to join two or more pieces of metal together by heating their edges until they melt and fuse |
| 2. illegal br____l | n. | a place where people, particularly women, engage in sexual activity for payment; a house of prostitution |
| 3. hu____g bird | adj. | producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee |
| 4. m__t down gold | v. | to turn from something solid into something soft or liquid as a result of heating |
| 5. all in a sw__t | n. | the salty liquid that is produced by the glands in the skin, especially when the body is hot or under stress |
| 6. un____ar clothing | n. | clothes worn next to the skin under outer clothes |
| 7. w__d two broken pipes | v. | to join two or more pieces of metal together by heating their edges until they melt and fuse |
| 8. w_x and wane | n. | a substance that is solid at room temperature but becomes softer and more pliable when heated, often used in the production of candles, polishes, and cosmetics; (verb) to become large |
| 9. decided to be a fir____er | n. | a person whose job is to extinguish fires |
| 10. butter cr____nt | n. | a crescent-shaped pastry made of laminated dough and often filled with cheese, chocolate, or other ingredients; a popular breakfast pastry in France and other countries |

ANSWERS: 1. weld, 2. brothel, 3. humming, 4. melt, 5. sweat, 6. underwear, 7. weld, 8. wax, 9. firefighter, 10. croissant

11. a moment of ja_____vu *n.* (of psychology, the opposite of "deja-vu") any familiar situation which is not recognized by the observer, which is the feeling of having already experienced a current situation, even when you know you haven't
12. re_____nt cavity *adj.* tending to reinforce or prolong sound by sympathetic vibration; having a quality that elicits a similar response or feeling
13. re___t being so careless *v.* to feel sad, repentant, or disappointed over something you have done or something you have not been able to do
14. alcohol va___r *n.* a mass of tiny liquid drops in the air
15. b_t on a race *v.* to risk money on the result of an event or a competition, such as a race or game, to get more money; to have faith or confidence in something
16. naval ve___ls *n.* a ship or large boat
17. lu__d writing *adj.* expressed or presented clearly; easy to understand; rational and sane; shining or bright
18. men's un_____ar *n.* clothes worn next to the skin under outer clothes
19. E__o crises *n.* the official currency of most European Union countries
20. a cr__k in a board *v.* to break or cause to break without dividing into separate parts; (noun) a line on the surface of something along which it has separated without breaking

ANSWERS: 11. jamais-vu, 12. resonant, 13. regret, 14. vapor, 15. bet, 16. vessel, 17. lucid, 18. underwear, 19. euro, 20. crack

21. examine se__m *n.* the thin yellowish liquid that is a component of blood from which the clotting proteins have been removed, usually used to protect people or animals from disease, poison, etc.
22. re___t a decision *v.* to feel sad, repentant, or disappointed over something you have done or something you have not been able to do
23. vi__a section *n.* a stringed instrument of the violin family, slightly larger than a violin and tuned a fifth lower
24. delicious cr_____nt *n.* a crescent-shaped pastry made of laminated dough and often filled with cheese, chocolate, or other ingredients; a popular breakfast pastry in France and other countries
25. company mo__o *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
26. cr__k an eggshell *v.* to break or cause to break without dividing into separate parts; (noun) a line on the surface of something along which it has separated without breaking
27. a se__m injection *n.* the thin yellowish liquid that is a component of blood from which the clotting proteins have been removed, usually used to protect people or animals from disease, poison, etc.
28. b_t my future *v.* to risk money on the result of an event or a competition, such as a race or game, to get more money; to have faith or confidence in something

ANSWERS: 21. serum, 22. regret, 23. viola, 24. croissant, 25. motto, 26. crack, 27. serum, 28. bet

29. aircraft au_____ot *n.* a system that automatically controls the operation of an aircraft or spacecraft
30. the mo__o for safe traffic *n.* a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
31. re_____nt with the sound *adj.* tending to reinforce or prolong sound by sympathetic vibration; having a quality that elicits a similar response or feeling
32. t__p worker *n.* (a short form of "temporary worker" or "temporary employee") someone who works in a job for a limited time period, often without job stability or security;
33. lu__d explanation *adj.* expressed or presented clearly; easy to understand; rational and sane; shining or bright
34. underground br_____l *n.* a place where people, particularly women, engage in sexual activity for payment; a house of prostitution
35. with an empty be__y *n.* the front part of the body below the chest, containing the stomach and bowels; the rounded or curved part of an object, such as a ship or aircraft
36. n__r atmosphere *adj.* a type of film or literature that emphasizes crime, darkness, and moral ambiguity, often using shadowy, low-light cinematography or atmospheric prose; meaning "black" or "dark" in French
37. fire st__k *v.* to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material

ANSWERS: 29. autopilot, 30. motto, 31. resonant, 32. temp, 33. lucid, 34. brothel, 35. belly, 36. noir, 37. stick

38. st__k a key in a lock *v.* to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material
39. m__n of authority *n.* a person's manner or demeanor, especially in terms of their appearance or facial expression; the overall impression a person gives off
40. the be__y of the ship *n.* the front part of the body below the chest, containing the stomach and bowels; the rounded or curved part of an object, such as a ship or aircraft
41. au_____ot function *n.* a system that automatically controls the operation of an aircraft or spacecraft
42. had a di__y spell *adj.* having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance
43. t__p agency *n.* (a short form of "temporary worker" or "temporary employee") someone who works in a job for a limited time period, often without job stability or security;
44. sw__t bath *n.* the salty liquid that is produced by the glands in the skin, especially when the body is hot or under stress
45. b_g for help *v.* to ask for something urgently or earnestly; to appeal to someone to do something
46. irregular heart rh___m *n.* a strong regular repeated pattern of sounds, words, or musical notes that are used in music, poetry, and dancing

ANSWERS: 38. stick, 39. mien, 40. belly, 41. autopilot, 42. dizzy, 43. temp, 44. sweat, 45. beg, 46. rhythm

47. w_x finish *n.* a substance that is solid at room temperature but becomes softer and more pliable when heated, often used in the production of candles, polishes, and cosmetics; (verb) to become large
48. in an ugly m__d *n.* the way you feel at a particular time; an angry or impatient state of mind
49. the value of the E__o *n.* the official currency of most European Union countries
50. somber m__n *n.* a person's manner or demeanor, especially in terms of their appearance or facial expression; the overall impression a person gives off
51. feel di__y *adj.* having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance
52. p__p blood throughout the body *v.* to cause water, air, gas, etc. to move from one place to another by using mechanical equipment; to get or supply something such as money, information, etc. in significant quantities
53. a w_n smile *adj.* looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy
54. hu____g sound *adj.* producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee
55. a test pi__t *n.* a person who flies an aircraft, especially as a job; a person qualified to guide ships through a difficult area of water
56. p__p a secret out of success *v.* to cause water, air, gas, etc. to move from one place to another by using mechanical equipment; to get or supply something such as money, information, etc. in significant quantities

ANSWERS: 47. wax, 48. mood, 49. euro, 50. mien, 51. dizzy, 52. pump, 53. wan, 54. humming, 55. pilot, 56. pump

57. b_g the question *v.* to ask for something urgently or earnestly; to appeal to someone to do something
58. blood ve___ls *n.* a ship or large boat
59. w_n light *adj.* looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy
60. p__y for rain *v.* to make a request or petition to a higher power, especially in the form of a respectful or humble request
61. in samba rh___m *n.* a strong regular repeated pattern of sounds, words, or musical notes that are used in music, poetry, and dancing
62. the m__d in a room *n.* the way you feel at a particular time; an angry or impatient state of mind
63. m__t the ice *v.* to turn from something solid into something soft or liquid as a result of heating
64. water va__r in the atmosphere *n.* a mass of tiny liquid drops in the air
65. n__r crime novel *adj.* a type of film or literature that emphasizes crime, darkness, and moral ambiguity, often using shadowy, low-light cinematography or atmospheric prose; meaning "black" or "dark" in French
66. pick up a vi__a *n.* a stringed instrument of the violin family, slightly larger than a violin and tuned a fifth lower
67. episodes of ja_____vu *n.* (of psychology, the opposite of "deja-vu") any familiar situation which is not recognized by the observer, which is the feeling of having already experienced a current situation, even when you know you haven't

ANSWERS: 57. beg, 58. vessel, 59. wan, 60. pray, 61. rhythm, 62. mood, 63. melt, 64. vapor, 65. noir, 66. viola, 67. jamais-vu

68. forest fir_____er *n.* a person whose job is to extinguish fires
69. p__y devoutly *v.* to make a request or petition to a higher power, especially in the form of a respectful or humble request
70. pi__t production *n.* a person who flies an aircraft, especially as a job; a person qualified to guide ships through a difficult area of water

ANSWERS: 68. firefighter, 69. pray, 70. pilot

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. I had a cup of coffee and a _____ for breakfast this morning.
 - n.* a crescent-shaped pastry made of laminated dough and often filled with cheese, chocolate, or other ingredients; a popular breakfast pastry in France and other countries

2. The airplane was on _____ during the long flight.
 - n.* a system that automatically controls the operation of an aircraft or spacecraft

3. The _____ arrived in port the following day.
 - n.* a ship or large boat

4. You _____ a bill in the change machine, and the coins pop out.
 - v.* to put something, usually a sharp object, into something; to restrict yourself to doing or using one certain thing and not change; (noun) a thin piece of wood or other material

5. The film _____ genre is known for its dark and brooding atmosphere.
 - adj.* a type of film or literature that emphasizes crime, darkness, and moral ambiguity, often using shadowy, low-light cinematography or atmospheric prose; meaning "black" or "dark" in French

6. He beat out a jazz _____ on the cajones.
 - n.* a strong regular repeated pattern of sounds, words, or musical notes that are used in music, poetry, and dancing

7. She _____ her parents to let her go to the concert.
 - v.* to ask for something urgently or earnestly; to appeal to someone to do something

ANSWERS: 1. croissant, 2. autopilot, 3. vessel, 4. stick, 5. noir, 6. rhythm, 7. begged

8. He was alert and could not _____ any critical information out of him.
- v.* to cause water, air, gas, etc. to move from one place to another by using mechanical equipment; to get or supply something such as money, information, etc. in significant quantities
9. I want to buy new winter _____ because mine have holes in them.
- n.* clothes worn next to the skin under outer clothes
10. She had a tattoo just above her _____ button.
- n.* the front part of the body below the chest, containing the stomach and bowels; the rounded or curved part of an object, such as a ship or aircraft
11. I _____ to say that you did not gain admission to the university.
- v.* to feel sad, repentant, or disappointed over something you have done or something you have not been able to do
12. His gaffe spoiled the _____ of the dinner party.
- n.* the way you feel at a particular time; an angry or impatient state of mind
13. I need to find a _____ job while I search for a permanent position.
- n.* (a short form of "temporary worker" or "temporary employee") someone who works in a job for a limited time period, often without job stability or security;
14. His argument was so _____ that even his opponents agreed with him.
- adj.* expressed or presented clearly; easy to understand; rational and sane; shining or bright
15. The _____ exercised great care in landing.
- n.* a person who flies an aircraft, especially as a job; a person qualified to guide ships through a difficult area of water

ANSWERS: 8. pump, 9. underwear, 10. belly, 11. regret, 12. mood, 13. temp, 14. lucid, 15. pilot

16. The _____ frequency of the guitar string was measured with a tuner.

adj. tending to reinforce or prolong sound by sympathetic vibration; having a quality that elicits a similar response or feeling

17. He that would eat the kernel must _____ the nut.

v. to break or cause to break without dividing into separate parts; (noun) a line on the surface of something along which it has separated without breaking

18. She wiped the _____ off her forehead with a towel.

n. the salty liquid that is produced by the glands in the skin, especially when the body is hot or under stress

19. Clouds form when water _____ rises to the upper atmosphere.

n. a mass of tiny liquid drops in the air

20. _____ therapy often involves injecting detoxified toxins to acquire antibodies.

n. the thin yellowish liquid that is a component of blood from which the clotting proteins have been removed, usually used to protect people or animals from disease, poison, etc.

21. She closed her eyes and _____ for strength to overcome difficult times.

v. to make a request or petition to a higher power, especially in the form of a respectful or humble request

22. The _____ of the bees filled the air as she walked through the garden.

adj. producing a continuous, low, vibrating sound like that of the bee

23. Her resistance _____ under his persuasion.

v. to turn from something solid into something soft or liquid as a result of heating

ANSWERS: 16. resonant, 17. crack, 18. sweat, 19. vapor, 20. Serum, 21. prayed, 22. humming, 23. melted

24. His confident _____ suggested that he was in charge of the situation.
n. a person's manner or demeanor, especially in terms of their appearance or facial expression; the overall impression a person gives off
25. The company's _____ is "Innovation and Service," which is reflected in its products and customer support.
n. a phrase or slogan that expresses a guiding principle or goal
26. He sealed the letter with a _____ seal.
n. a substance that is solid at room temperature but becomes softer and more pliable when heated, often used in the production of candles, polishes, and cosmetics; (verb) to become large
27. The _____ broke into the house bravely to rescue the children.
n. a person whose job is to extinguish fires
28. I _____ that you know it.
v. to risk money on the result of an event or a competition, such as a race or game, to get more money; to have faith or confidence in something
29. He learned how to _____ metal in his high school shop class.
v. to join two or more pieces of metal together by heating their edges until they melt and fuse
30. His _____ complexion showed that he was feeling very ill.
adj. looking pale or sickly; lacking vitality or energy
31. Some countries may leave the _____.
n. the official currency of most European Union countries

ANSWERS: 24. mien, 25. motto, 26. wax, 27. firefighter, 28. bet, 29. weld, 30. wan, 31. Euro

32. I walked into my old high school, but instead of a wave of nostalgia, I experienced a strange sense of _____.
- n.* (of psychology, the opposite of "deja-vu") any familiar situation which is not recognized by the observer, which is the feeling of having already experienced a current situation, even when you know you haven't
33. She had been playing the _____ for over a decade.
- n.* a stringed instrument of the violin family, slightly larger than a violin and tuned a fifth lower
34. Professional skaters can spin fast on the ice without getting _____.
- adj.* having or causing a whirling sensation and not able to keep balance
35. The police raided the _____ in the red-light district and arrested all the prostitutes and customers.
- n.* a place where people, particularly women, engage in sexual activity for payment; a house of prostitution

ANSWERS: 32. jamais-vu, 33. viola, 34. dizzy, 35. brothel